

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) In a rocket motor or ordnance device containing propellant or explosive material enclosed in a case, which presents an explosion hazard when subjected to external heat, the improvement comprising:

an exposed a combustible strip formed of a non-explosive and non-pyrotechnic material secured to or formed as a part of the exterior surface of the case; said strip being constructed to burn and generate sufficient heat when exposed to predetermined external heat to weaken the adjacent portion of the case and effect rupture of the case to vent interior gases therein prior to autoignition of the propellant or explosive.

2. (original) The rocket motor or ordnance device of Claim 1 wherein said strip is in contact with the exterior surface of the case.

3. (original) The rocket motor or ordnance device of Claim 1 wherein said strip is formed of a metallic material.

4. (original) The rocket motor or ordnance device of Claim 1 wherein said strip extends partially around the exterior surface of the case.

5. (original) The rocket motor or ordnance device of Claim 1 wherein a plurality of metallic strips are secured to the exterior surface of the case in spaced relation thereon.

6. (original) The rocket motor or ordnance device of Claim 5 wherein said strips are in circumferentially spaced relation on the exterior surface of the case.

7. (original) The rocket motor or ordnance device of Claim 5 wherein said strips are in longitudinally spaced relation on the exterior surface of the case.

8. (original) The rocket motor or ordnance device of Claim 1 wherein said strip is in the form of a ring extending completely around the exterior surface of the case.

9. (original) The rocket motor or ordnance device of Claim 8 wherein a plurality of metallic strips in the form of rings are mounted in spaced relation on the exterior surface of the case.

10. (currently amended) The rocket motor or ordnance device of Claim 1 wherein the case is formed of metal steel and said strip is formed of magnesium.

11. (original) The rocket motor or ordnance device of Claim 10 wherein said strip is formed of a magnesium alloy.

12. (currently amended) The rocket motor or ordnance device of Claim 1 wherein the case is formed of metal steel and said strip is formed of an iron and aluminum powder mixture.

13. (currently amended) The rocket motor or ordnance device of Claim 1 wherein the case is formed of metal steel and said strip is formed of a palladium-aluminum alloy.

14. (currently amended) A method of venting a rocket motor or ordnance device case containing propellant or explosive material which presents an explosive hazard when subjected to external heat, comprising the step of providing an exposed a combustible strip on the exterior surface of the case;

 said strip being formed of a non-explosive and non-pyrotechnic material constructed to burn and generate sufficient heat when exposed to predetermined external heat to weaken the adjacent portion of the case and effect rupture of the case to vent interior gases therein prior to autoignition of the propellant or explosive.

15. (original) The method of Claim 14 wherein a plurality of combustible strips are provided on the exterior surface of the case in spaced relation thereon.

16. (New) The rocket motor or ordnance device of claim 1 wherein said strip is formed of a material that generates heat when combusted at a rate faster than the material of the case.

17. (New) The rocket motor or ordnance device of claim 16 wherein said strip is formed of a metal or metal ore.